

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	J.R. Holman et al.	Attorney Docket No.:	MSFT120610
Application No.:	10/654,208	Art Unit:	2191 / Confirmation No: 4630
Filed:	September 3, 2003	Examiner:	C.-C. Chow
Title:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR VALIDATING WHETHER A SOFTWARE APPLICATION IS PROPERLY INSTALLED		

RESPONSE A

Seattle, Washington 98101

January 31, 2007

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

The November 17, 2006, Office Action rejected Claims 1-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2003/0009687, issued to Ferchau (hereinafter Ferchau).

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, and for the reasons set forth below, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. Prior to presenting the reasons why applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, brief summaries of the present invention and the cited reference, Ferchau, are presented. However, it should be appreciated that the brief summaries are presented solely to assist the Examiner in recognizing the differences between the pending claims and the cited references, and should not be construed as limiting upon the present invention.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention is directed at determining whether a software application is validly installed on a target computer. In order to do so, a validation manifest is used. A validation manifest includes validation actions the results of which, when carried out with regard to the